

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Applicant has amended Claims 8 and 17. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, Claims 1-8, 17-19 and 21-29 remain pending. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed September 26, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicant has amended Claim 17. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by this amendment. Accordingly Applicant submits that this rejection is now moot and respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17-19.

Claims 8, 17-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Applicant has amended Claims 8 and 17. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by these amendments. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of Claims 8 and 17-19 is now moot and respectfully requests the withdrawal of this rejection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 17-19 and 21-29 stand rejected as anticipated by MyYahoo.com Help Pages, Archive .org, 1999 ("Yahoo").

Claims 17-19

Claim 17, as amended, recites a method comprising selecting an asset of a first object; and sharing the selected asset with a second object, wherein the second object is a child of the first object in a hierarchical structure, wherein sharing the selected asset comprises enabling the second object to utilize the selected asset until the second object attempts to modify the selected asset, making a copy of the selected asset when the second object attempts to modify the selected asset and thereafter disabling the second object's ability to utilize the selected asset and enabling the second object to modify and utilize the copy of the selected asset.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention allow assets or features of a website such as images, documents, page layout components etc. to be shared among objects which have a hierarchical relationship with one another. These objects may then share the assets such that the objects have equal rights to the object. If a child object attempts to modify an asset, however, a copy of the asset is made which then may be modified by the child object.

The Examiner cites generally Yahoo in rejecting Claim 17, claiming that Yahoo teaches that the main website contains assets which are shared with personalized websites. A user is allowed to configure a version of the Yahoo website so that it incorporates at least some of the content of the main website. However, there are certain assets that cannot be modified. The user can also rearrange the content.

The Examiner seems to be describing the functionality described in Yahoo, not how this functionality is accomplished. Indeed, after perusing Yahoo, Applicant cannot find all of the limitations contained in Claim 17.

More specifically, Applicant assumes that in the rejection the Examiner is assuming the Yahoo main page to be a parent object and a MyYahoo page to be a child object. However, Applicant cannot find where it is disclosed in Yahoo that a MyYahoo page is "a child of the first object in a hierarchical structure," as recited in Claim 17. While Yahoo discloses that a MyYahoo page allows collection of favorite parts accessible through Yahoo into one place, this is not equivalent to a parent-child relationship in a hierarchical relationship as recited in Claim 17.

Furthermore, while content which may appear in a Yahoo page may also appear in a MyYahoo page, Applicant cannot find where Yahoo discloses that the MyYahoo page and the Yahoo page share this content "wherein sharing the selected asset comprises enabling the second object to utilize the selected asset until the second object attempts to modify the selected asset, making a copy of the selected asset when the second object attempts to modify the selected asset and thereafter disabling the second object's ability to utilize the selected asset and enabling the second object to modify and utilize the copy of the selected asset," as recited in Claim 17. It is just as feasible that the Yahoo page and a MyYahoo page may contain the same content by virtue of "copying the assets from one web site to another." (See Application, Description of Related Art, Paragraph [0005]).

If the Examiner believes the Applicants' assessment to be incorrect, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite with more specificity the sections of Yahoo which

disclose each of the limitations of Claim 17 so that these areas may be better addressed by Applicant.

As Yahoo does not disclose all the limitations of Claim 17 Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 17 and its dependent claims 18 and 19.

Claims 21-29

With respect to Claim 21, Claim 21, recites a computer readable medium containing instructions configured to cause a computer to perform the method of selecting two objects which have a hierarchical relationship wherein a first one of the objects is a parent of a second one of the objects; selecting one or more assets of the first object; and sharing the selected assets of the first object with the second object, wherein each of the selected assets is shared using a mode chosen from a group consisting of a first mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, but only the first object can modify the asset, a second mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, and both the first and second objects can modify the asset, and a third mode in which the first object can utilize and modify the asset, but wherein the second object can utilize the asset until the second object attempts to modify the asset, at which time a copy of the asset is generated and the second object can utilize and modify the copy of the asset; and wherein the second object shares one or more selected assets with a third object which is a child of the second object, wherein the one or more selected assets are shared using one or more of the first, second and third modes.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention allow assets or features of a website such as images, documents, page layout components etc. to be shared among objects which have a hierarchical relationship with one another. The objects may share the assets according to three modes.

More particularly, the Examiner cites pages 1-3 of Yahoo for the limitation of "selecting two objects which have a hierarchical relationship wherein a first one of the objects is a parent of a second one of the objects," as recited in Claim 21. Pages 1-3 of Yahoo simply disclose a screen capture of Yahoo.com (Page 1) and a screen capture of a MyYahoo page (Pages 2 and 3). Applicant assumes that in the rejection the Examiner is assuming the Yahoo main page to be a parent object and a MyYahoo page to be a child object. Even so, while Yahoo discloses that a MyYahoo page allows collection of favorite parts of Yahoo into one place, Applicant respectfully submits that screen capture of two web pages, one of which may include content

which may be accessed through the first page, is not equivalent to “selecting two objects which have a hierarchical relationship wherein a first one of the objects is a parent of a second one of the objects,” as recited in Claim 21.

The Examiner goes on to say that Yahoo teaches that the main website contains assets, which are shared with the personalized websites. The main website, and the user have the ability to configure the Yahoo website as the main website and the personalized website that incorporate many of the contents of the main website. Again, the Examiner seems to be referencing the functionality described in Yahoo, not how this functionality is accomplished. Indeed, after perusing Yahoo, Applicant cannot find where Yahoo discloses the limitations contained in Claim 21.

While content which may appear in a Yahoo page may also appear in a MyYahoo page, Applicant cannot find where Yahoo discloses that the MyYahoo page and the Yahoo page share this content “using a mode chosen from a group consisting of a first mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, but only the first object can modify the asset, a second mode in which both the first and second objects can utilize the asset, and both the first and second objects can modify the asset, and a third mode in which the first object can utilize and modify the asset, but wherein the second object can utilize the asset until the second object attempts to modify the asset, at which time a copy of the asset is generated and the second object can utilize and modify the copy of the asset,” as recited in Claim 21. Yahoo makes no reference to how content which may be accessed through the Yahoo page is may be included in a MyYahoo page. It is just as feasible that the Yahoo page and a MyYahoo page may contain the same content by virtue of “copying the assets from one web site to another.” (See Application, Description of Related Art, Paragraph [0005]).

If the Examiner believes the Applicants’ assessment to be incorrect Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner cite with more specificity the sections of Yahoo which disclose each of the limitations of Claim 21 so that these areas may be better addressed by Applicant.

As Yahoo does not disclose all the limitations of Claim 21 Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 21 and its dependent claims22-29.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-8 stand rejected as obvious over Yahoo in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,983,227 ("Nazem"). Independent Claim 1 recites similar limitations as Claim 21. Consequently, Applicant believes that the above arguments presented with respect to Yahoo in regards to Claim 21 apply equally well to Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and its associated dependent Claims 2-8.


CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-8, 17-19 and 21-29. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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